**SE Background Notes**

*Please read the SEBackground Notes 1 – 3 before our first class. Notes 4 – 5 will be useful later on in the semester.*

*In the first class you will be expected to have prepared a small practical (see below).*

**SE Background 1**

*These notes are from the mid noughties (2000s). Though some of the examples given may be old, they are not outdated (still highly relevant). There is a link to more modern examples.Update: the links may not work. However, there are myriad examples from the net. For instance, check these two out:*

[*https://www.computerworld.com/article/2515483/epic-failures-11-infamous-software-bugs.html*](https://www.computerworld.com/article/2515483/epic-failures-11-infamous-software-bugs.html) *(Epic failures: 11 infamous software bugs)*

[*https://raygun.com/blog/costly-software-errors-history/*](https://raygun.com/blog/costly-software-errors-history/) *(11 of the most costly software errors in history [2019 update])*

*A term in the notes that may be new to you:* ***Multiway Switch*** *– like when you have a big room and there are many switches to control one light (maybe because there are 2 door entering into the room and you'd like a switch at each door).*

1. **Practical**

For our first class; start with the following practical. Before we meet for these class, divide yourselves into 2 groups then:

*try defining precisely and unambiguously the process of making a cup of coffee in the morning. Your specification should consider all possible problems and provide a solution to deal with each. We will compare the 2 groups' solutions in class.*

**SE Background 2**

1. Read up on **basic definitions** (i.e. just to give you a general idea) of:
   1. Batch software
   2. Distributed Systems
   3. Embedded Intelligence
   4. The millenium bug